



## Chapter Three

### *Faith, the Key to Unlocking the Devil's Gridlocks*

As we previously defined, a *Gridlock* is a complete lack of movement or progress resulting in a backup or stagnation. Someone who finds him/herself in a gridlock is stuck. That aspect of their life has come to a screeching halt. Satanic gridlocks are designed to be airtight. The person caught in them is not expected to find a way out. Truth is, they are airtight... except for one caveat: No one can hem God in! The greatest example is the resurrection story. Jesus, our Lord, had been kept in hell for three days. The devil was throwing a party, dancing in victory. However, when the time came for God to show up, God's power reached down into hell and raised Jesus up. *Even death could not hold God's power to ransom.*

The object of this book is to let you know that there is no problem too hard for God to solve; no pit so deep that God cannot bring you out. All you need to do is cry out to God and He will bring you out. When we cry out to Him, he will answer and *show* us the way out. Note that I said, "*show.*" God can supernaturally drag you out without you doing a thing. However, more often than not, God will point to the way of escape and expect *you* to get out.

The place of prayer and fasting is a place where God gives divine instructions. In that place of prayer, you are more attuned to the Holy Spirit and He will give you step-by-step instructions. He will show you the way out.

## The Spirit of Faith

Although every thing looks bleak, the spirit of faith within tells you *there has to be a way out.*

The word of God insists that there is a way out:

1 Corinthians 10:13 GNB

13 Every test that you have experienced is the kind that normally comes to people. But God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are put to the test, he will give you the strength to endure it, and **so provide you with a way out.**

1 Corinthians 10:13 AMP

13 For no temptation (no trial regarded as enticing to sin), [*no matter how it comes or where it leads*] has overtaken you and laid hold on you that is not common to man [*that is, no temptation or trial has come to you that is beyond human resistance and that is not adjusted and adapted and belonging to human experience, and such as man can bear*]. But God is faithful [*to His Word and to His compassionate nature*], and **He [*can be trusted*]** not to let you be tempted and tried and assayed beyond your ability and strength of resistance and power to endure, but with the temptation He will [*always*] **also provide the way out (the means of escape to a landing place)**, that you may be capable and strong and powerful to bear up under it patiently.

The Amplified version says “But God is faithful [to His Word and to His compassionate nature], and He [can be trusted].” This piece of scripture assures us of one principle: *Hidden and locked into every impossible situation, is the solution.* You must believe this principle implicitly or you will have problems that will never be solved.

It is like being locked into a room with a door and all the walls (including the door) are painted black; then someone switches the light off. The spirit of faith assures you that there has to be a door, a way out. Your complete belief in God’s faithful, compassionate

nature tells you that He (God) could not allow you to be locked in this room without a way to get out.

Personally, I do not believe that there is anything impossible. The spirit of faith will not let me believe that. Let us check out what I call *Possibility Scriptures*.

### Possibility Scriptures

Matthew 17:20

20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; *and nothing shall be impossible unto you.*

Mark 9:23

23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, *all things are possible to him who believes.*"

Luke 1:37

37 For *with God nothing will be impossible.*"

Luke 18:27

27 But He said, "*The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.*"

The word of God clearly shows that there are two categories of individuals who never accept the impossible; and indeed will never experience impossibilities: (1) God; because He knows He can do all things. (2) Man. The average human will experience impossibilities but the person with faith, becomes God-like.

Now with this little background, we must re-assess every situation. Going back to the analogy of the dark room, you must then believe that there is a door. You must say to yourself, *If I can only get a little bit of light, then I will see the way out.* The truth is all that is needed in this situation is *light*. I call that light, **Revelation**.

## **Revelation is the Unveiling of a Hidden Truth**

There is a way out; you just don't know what it is. The Devil will not be much of a devil if he places you in a gridlock in which the way out is apparent. You must seek the way out of your gridlock.

*You must seek light.*

The time of fasting positions you to seek light. God has enough of your attention to show you the way out. Like I said before, the way out is not apparent. It is not at the level of your reasoning. In fact most of the time, the best minds in that field would still not be able to figure it out. Think-tanks would be unable to unravel the mystery. Why? *Because it a spiritually generated problem.* It was *specifically crafted to do you in* by the Devil. You need God to show you how to get out.

Take for example Moses' gridlock in Exodus 15:

Exodus 15:22-25

22 So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water.

23 Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah.

24 And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"

25 So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them,

Moses had about 2 million people he had led out of Egypt. They were all thirsty. They were in the wilderness and there was no water. The magnitude of this problem could only have been mind-boggling. The truth was, there was no way out. No one could ever have come up with the solution of cutting down a tree and throwing it into the bitter waters. I believe scientifically, that was probably not possible. Scientifically correct or not, it proved

to be the solution Moses needed to get him out of that gridlock. The thing though, is that *the solution was right there beside the problem* but Moses would never have seen it if God had not showed it to him.

### **Revelation is the key to realization.**

You need God to reveal to you the way out. When you fast, instructions from God come clearly.

Again, what you need to know is what to do. When you do not know how to move forward, when it seems like you are at the end of the road, fast and pray and His light will come, and you will find your way out.

Habakkuk 2:1

1 I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me...

Psalms 16:7 AMP

7 I will bless the Lord, Who has given me counsel; yes, my heart instructs me in the night seasons.

Psalms 32:8 AMP

8 I [*the Lord*] will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

In the next chapter we will start to identify the root causes of some of the issues that seem to have brought us to a stand still.





## Chapter Four

*What Wisdom is this?*

**U**nderstanding the Wisdom Stacked Against You. In this section we will seek to explain how you can identify the root causes of your problems; after all, you need to know what the root causes are, to effectively deal with them. Wisdom is absolutely crucial in handling the different “impossibilities” of life. One thing we are guaranteed is the release of divine wisdom as we fast and pray.

### **Wisdom defined**

Wisdom is defined as knowing the best, most effective means of handling your obstacle, of dealing with opposition or getting your breakthrough. The dictionary has several definitions for wisdom. Let’s take a look at some of the interesting ones:

Wisdom

- Is the trait of utilizing knowledge and experience with common sense and insight.
- Is the ability to discern or judge what is true, right, or lasting.
- Is a wise outlook, plan, or course of action.

Wisdom given by God is closely related to *Discernment*, and *Insight*.

**Discernment** is the perception of that which is obscure.

**Insight** is the clear (and often sudden) understanding of a

complex situation.

Pay attention to two key words here: *Obscure* and *Complex*. These are components of the gridlocks we find ourselves in. Many times, it feels like you are fighting an enemy you cannot see. He is punching from all sides but you cannot defend yourself because, you cannot see him. Situations arise and are often overwhelming and you feel like you are spinning in a vortex over which you have no control.

The wisdom that God gives you, however, locates your enemy (Satan) and uncovers his hand and his strategies. Now you see him clearly; now you can handle him definitely and effectively. As we fast and pray, we have a right to expect God to release wisdom into our lives. Again, it is not just abstinence from food that brings you breakthrough; you must earnestly seek wisdom, discernment and insight.

### **Seeking Discernment and Insight**

In your unique, complicated situation, *Discernment* is key and this is often lacking. But as you fast and pray, God supplies the ability to discern the real crux of the problem. He will help you identify what is obscure (i.e. that which is not clearly understood; that which is ambiguous or vague) about the whole situation. God will also give you *insight*. He will help you understand the complex situation and will break it down piece-by-piece, such that, that which seemed monumental is suddenly comprehensible and accessible. After you have these two down, you must now seek Him for a *Plan of Action*.

### **A Plan of Action**

Once you have discerned the problem and you have insight, God then gives you a definite plan or course of action; that is, He gives you *wisdom*. Personally, when I fast and pray concerning any issue, I am not satisfied until I am able to discern the problem, get an insight into its complexity, and I most certainly do not stop praying until I get a plan of action. You see, the plan of action is what brings into physical reality and manifestation the answers to your



prayers.

Like you now know, discernment and insight are crucial, and although we speak of divine wisdom the Bible really does teach about at least 3 different kinds of wisdom. The reason we need to know this is because each kind of wisdom requires a different approach. So we must discern what kind of wisdom we are dealing with. To understand this, we will look at a practical, biblical example in the story of Esther.





## Chapter Five

### *The Book of Esther – A Study in Wisdom*

A study of the book of Esther shows us the great significance of a fast in the aspect of gaining wisdom in order to overcome the onslaught of the Devil. Esther brings to the fore the interplay of the different aspects of wisdom identified in the Bible.

#### **Gridlocks – The Devil’s “irreversible” plan for your destruction**

In the book of Esther, we read about the near-annihilation of the Jewish people when they were in captivity. The story goes this way: There was a man named Mordecai who was a Jew and one who held strongly to God’s instructions as revealed in the Jewish Law. The Jew was never to bow in worship to any other but the one true God. However, in Mordecai’s time, a decree had been passed in the Kingdom, which ordered all the King’s subjects to worship a man named Haman. Haman was the newly appointed Prime Minister to the King Ahasuerus. Let’s read this story.

#### **Esther 3:1-6 GNB**

- 1 Some time later King Xerxes promoted a man named Haman to the position of prime minister. Haman was the son of Hammedatha, a descendant of Agag.
- 2 The king ordered all the officials in his service to show their respect for Haman by kneeling and bowing to him. They all did so, except for Mordecai, who refused to do it.
- 3 The other officials in the royal service asked him why

he was disobeying the king's command;  
 4 day after day they urged him to give in, but he would not listen to them. "I am a Jew," he explained, "and I cannot bow to Haman." So they told Haman about this, wondering if he would tolerate Mordecai's conduct.  
 5 Haman was furious when he realized that Mordecai was not going to kneel and bow to him,  
 6 and when he learned that Mordecai was a Jew, he decided to do more than punish Mordecai alone. He made plans to kill every Jew in the whole Persian Empire.

As we have just read, Haman full of wrath decided that he was not only going to punish Mordecai alone for refusing to worship him, but that he would in one fell swoop, annihilate all of Mordecai's race, the Jews. Cunningly, Haman sought a way to make this happen *legitimately* and *irrevocably*.

Esther 3:8-15 GNB

8 So Haman told the king, "There is a certain race of people scattered all over your empire and found in every province. They observe customs that are not like those of any other people. Moreover, they do not obey the laws of the empire, so it is not in your best interests to tolerate them.

9 If it please Your Majesty, issue a decree that they are to be put to death. If you do, I guarantee that I will be able to put 375 tons of silver into the royal treasury for the administration of the empire."

10 The king took off his ring, which was used to stamp proclamations and make them official, and gave it to the enemy of the Jewish people, Haman son of Hammedatha, the descendant of Agag.

11 The king told him, "The people and their money are yours; do as you like with them."

12 So on the thirteenth day of the first month Haman called the king's secretaries and dictated a proclamation to be translated into every language and system of writing used in the empire and to be sent to all the rulers, governors, and officials. It was issued in the name of King Xerxes and stamped with his ring.

13 Runners took this proclamation to every province of the empire. It contained the instructions that on a single

day, the thirteenth day of Adar, all Jews---young and old, women and children---were to be killed. They were to be slaughtered without mercy and their belongings were to be taken.

14 The contents of the proclamation were to be made public in every province, so that everyone would be prepared when that day came.

15 At the king's command the decree was made public in the capital city of Susa, and runners carried the news to the provinces. The king and Haman sat down and had a drink while the city of Susa was being thrown into confusion.

So, Haman had gotten his way; he had set the stage for a total extinction of every identified Jew in the land. This was not because they had done wrong, but because the ego of a man had been bruised. This plan had the Devil's hand written all over it and the Jews, to all intents and purposes, were "Gonners."

Haman could have written a decree on his own, but to make it *irrevocable*, the king had to sign it. This was why he went through the king.

Esther 8:8 GNB:

8 But a proclamation issued in the king's name and stamped with the royal seal cannot be revoked...

By the time the whole plot was in place, the Jewish people were in an "irreversible" gridlock. Now what Haman, the perpetrator of this evil plot had not bargained for was that the King's queen, Esther, was a Jew. He also did not know that Queen Esther was his archenemy, Mordecai's, adopted daughter.

Now the onus was on Esther to bring deliverance to her people at this critical juncture in history. So, in this story, we see Esther placed in the tough position of interceding for her people with her husband, King Ahasuerus. When Esther demurred and tried to back away from such awesome responsibility, she was told bluntly by her adoptive father, Mordecai, "This is your destiny. This is why you were placed into such a position of such great significance. It

was for a time such as this.” Esther 4:14 (paraphrased).

Esther, recognizing the magnitude of the problem and her complete inability to solve it, *called for a three-day-and-night fast*.

Esther 4:16 GNB

16 “Go and get all the Jews in Susa together; hold a fast and pray for me. Don’t eat or drink anything for three days and nights. My servant women and I will be doing the same. After that, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. If I must die for doing it, I will die.”

### **Your Breakthrough May Require a Series of Miracles**

Esther quickly recognized that she would need a series of miracles.

**Favor.** The first miracle Esther needed was one of *favor*. She would need favor to stay alive long enough to execute whatever plan God would give her. You see, in those days, you did not go in to see the king unless he summoned you. If you went in uninvited, unless the king held out his golden scepter toward you, you were dead meat. Esther therefore needed favor from the king, so that when she went in uninvited, the king would keep her alive.

Well, God ensured that she got that favor from her husband the king.

Esther 5:2 GNB

2 When the king saw Queen Esther standing outside, she won his favor, and he held out to her the gold scepter. She then came up and touched the tip of it.

**Wisdom.** Now that favor had opened the door, what next? She needed wisdom to say the right things and make the right requests. An in-depth look at the book of Esther will show us 3 different kinds of wisdom at play. All three, we will deal with in the course of our lives, and so we need to be able to discern which is operating at each given time and what to do with it.

## The Three Types of Wisdom

We will digress a little at this point to look at what God's word teaches about wisdom and how fasting helps in the area of obtaining it.

The Bible teaches clearly of three levels of wisdom operating in our world today:

(1) Human wisdom (2) Demonic wisdom (3) Godly wisdom.

1 Corinthians 2: 13 & 14 (KJV) identifies “man’s wisdom” and wisdom “which the Holy Ghost teacheth.” James 3: 15 (KJV) identifies “wisdom [which] descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.”

### Human wisdom

Let's talk about human wisdom for a minute. Human wisdom is self-centered with its emphasis on “I, me, and myself.” It focuses on “how I feel; what makes me feel good; what benefits me and mine.” Human wisdom is usually superficial and very easily manipulated by others because as long as people can feed your ego, make you feel important, you will go along with whatever they suggest. Human wisdom is not in itself evil but because it is focused on self, it is usually hijacked by the Enemy and very quickly becomes indistinguishable from demonic wisdom.

Human wisdom is rarely discerning of spiritual things and usually makes decision based on how things *appear*. People who operate solely at this level of wisdom usually appear to be “fact-finders” but in reality, are easy preys to the devil's manipulation because no matter how deep they dig for facts, they still cannot go beyond what they can see and feel. Such people give great credence to “paper trails.” The problem is that they can never see issues for what they really are because they get easily side-tracked by the “evidence” or “facts.” The Devil knows them quite well and frequently uses

people who are stuck at this level for his own purposes.

Human wisdom lends itself very easily and frequently to the Devil's agenda. People who operate at this level are frequently not the originator of evil but are usually pawns in the Devil's chess game. They will not start out a lie or a plot, but they will be *key* to perpetrating the lie and actualizing the plot.

Now, you may ask yourself, "Why do I need to know about this?" There are two reasons:

(1) Never allow yourself to operate at this level solely because you can never overcome the devil's onslaught against you with human wisdom. A demonically-engineered problem cannot be resolved from the level of human reasoning and emotion. The devil has been here long before you got here, and he knows exactly what to put together to baffle and confuse you. If you let him, the devil will tie up your mind in knots.

(2) The human face to your problem may look very friendly and even unaware of the enormous pain and sorrow he/she is causing you. Why? Because he/she is not the originator of that problem and you may be wasting precious time and capital trying to "lobby" him/her. I call these kinds of people, People under the Influence (**PII**). What you need to note is that they themselves are under the heavy influence of a serious manipulative spirit; even though, you are the target.

Getting back to the Book of Esther. In this story, the king falls in this category. Let's look at how the decree to annihilate the Jews was passed in the first place. Haman comes and appeals to the king's ego:

Esther 3:8 NASB

8 Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from those of all other people and they do not observe the king's laws, so it is not in the king's



interest to let them remain.

We can see how Haman couches his own evil desire in a self-righteous, king-honoring, protecting-the-king's-interest agenda. Haman even promises to enrich the king in the process of protecting the king from these “bad guys”:

Esther 3:9 NASB

9 “If it is pleasing to the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who carry on the king’s business, to put into the king’s treasuries.”

The king falls for Haman’s scheme hook, line and sinker! Why? Because human wisdom is superficial, self-protecting, self-enriching and self-promoting. The king signs the decree and a whole nation faces annihilation.

The reason it is important to discern this kind of wisdom is that what this kind of person needs is a re-arrangement of the influence around him/her. If such a person is surrounded by angelic forces working on your behalf, he/she will be influenced to do good on your behalf. As this person was easily influenced for evil, he/she can easily be influenced for good, *but this needs to be done supernaturally*. Esther would have been wasting her time trying to cajole the king to listen to her. The king was too ego-driven and too much *under the influence* of Haman’s plot to respond to just pleas from Esther. The good thing was, Esther knew this. Esther recognized the types of wisdom at play here. As we will see later, a few divinely orchestrated events enabled Esther to obtain victory for herself and the Jewish nation.

### **Devilish or demonic wisdom**

This is the kind of wisdom that is sourced directly from the Devil and when you look closely, it has the handwriting of the Devil all

over it.

Demonic wisdom is usually crafty and skillfully put together. This wisdom is not of this world. The level of intelligence demonstrated is superhuman. When you take a close look at it, it really is above and beyond what a human can sit down and put together. We must realize that the Devil is far craftier than the average human. When someone is operating in this kind of wisdom, he/she is often described as “brilliant.” When this wisdom operates, the object is caught in a web so thick; it is near impossible to come out of it. The object feels like he/she is in a gridlock and *experiences strong feelings of despair, hopelessness and the inevitability of destruction.*

A Christian can easily recognize it because at the root of it is unabated hatred towards God, God’s people, God’s agenda and God’s kingdom. The reason the unsuspecting may be fooled is that it is always skillfully couched in good works or good intentions. However, if allowed to run its full course, its effects are devastating. People who operate in this kind of wisdom have voluntarily given themselves over to be vessels of the Devil. They are very much aware of what they are doing but they do not care. They are in league with the Devil and they know it. They are the initiators of evil and are glad to be. The only way they will be appeased is when they have gotten what they want.

Haman was such a one. He had sold himself to the devil; to be an instrument and a channel for the total annihilation of the Jewish nation. Look at the effect of this kind of wisdom in the book of Esther:

Esther 3:12-15 MKJV

12 Then the king’s scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded to the king’s lieutenants, and to the governors who were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province, according to the writing of it, and to every people according to their language. It was written in the

name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's ring.  
13 And the letters were sent by postal riders into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take what they owned for a prize.

14 The copy of the writing, for a command to be given in every province, was published to all people, to be ready for that day.

15 The posts went out, being hurried by the king's command, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink, **but the city Shushan was perplexed.**

Note the effect of the decree Haman wrote on the city of Shushan. The Bible states that the city was “perplexed.” The word translated perplexed in the Hebrew is the word *bûk*. This word means *to perplex, be confused, to be entangled*. This is the effect of demonic wisdom: the feeling of entanglement; like you are caught in a web and there is no way out.

In most cases, someone who is operating in demonic wisdom cannot be reasoned with and there usually is no turning back for such a person. The only recourse most of the time is their destruction. Either they destroy themselves or God Himself arranges for them to be taken off the scene.





## Chapter Six

### *The Book of Esther - Wisdom Pass Wisdom*

**W**isdom pass wisdom. What kind of English is that, you say. Well, that is a colloquial form of English used in some parts of Africa. When they want to stress the superlative such as, one thing being more powerful than the other, they say that thing pass the other thing. As confounding as human and demonic wisdom may appear, there really is one more type of wisdom that supersedes them. The use of this wisdom will totally frustrate the carefully-put-together schemes of your adversaries. Utilizing this type of wisdom will without fail, extricate you out of every human- or Satan-generated gridlock.

In this chapter, I will introduce you to the most potent mind in the universe – the mind of God. What flows from His mind is what we call, Godly Wisdom.

#### **Godly wisdom**

The third kind of wisdom we see in our base text in the book of Esther is godly wisdom. This is described as “wisdom that is from above.”

James 3:17

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

This wisdom is God-given and it supersedes all kinds of wisdom.

It is the sort that cannot be contradicted or overcome and the only kind that will defeat human and demonic wisdom. Different translations of Ephesians 3 verse 10 describe this wisdom as “manifold,” “many-sided,” and “multi-faceted.” This kind of wisdom cannot be locked in, and it would always find a way out for those who operate in it. This is the wisdom God recommends that the church use. According to God, it will astound the principalities and powers!

Ephesians 3:10 NKJV

10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,

I particularly like the rendering in the Amplified version:

Ephesians 3:10 AMP

10 [The purpose is] that through the church the complicated, many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable aspects might now be made known to the angelic rulers and authorities (principalities and powers) in the heavenly sphere.

This is the kind of wisdom that Jesus personally promised to give us; the kind that will defeat the best of human logic. This wisdom from above cannot be refuted, contradicted or resisted. Hallelujah!

Luke 21:15 KJV

15 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

Luke 21:15 AMP

15 For I [Myself] will give you a mouth and such utterance and wisdom that all of your foes combined will be unable to stand against or refute.

Luke 21:15 GNB

15 because I will give you such words and wisdom that none of your enemies will be able to refute or contradict

what you say.

This is a glorious revelation right here! So what is the catch? Shouldn't every Christian operate in this kind of wisdom? Well, every Christian does not because there is a catch to godly wisdom - you do not come by it easily. The Bible talks about this in 1 Corinthians 2. I like the rendering in the Message translation best.

1 Corinthians 2:7 MSG

7 God's wisdom is something mysterious that goes deep into the interior of his purposes. You don't find it lying around on the surface. It's not the latest message, but more like the oldest--what God determined as the way to bring out his best in us, long before we ever arrived on the scene.

The Bible goes on to tell us how we get this kind of wisdom: It is from our interaction with the Holy Spirit. This is why praying and fasting is so very powerful. Once you have set yourself aside to interact with God, the Holy Spirit starts to distil this wisdom from the heart of God and place it in your heart. As we have already established the wisdom you need to get yourself out of life's predicament cannot be picked up casually by reading a self-help book or watching the news. You need to get with God. For emphasis, let's read it together:

1 Corinthians 2:9-16 MSG

9 That's why we have this Scripture text: No one's ever seen or heard anything like this, Never so much as imagined anything quite like it-- What God has arranged for those who love him.

10 But you've seen and heard it because God by his Spirit has brought it all out into the open before you. The Spirit, not content to flit around on the surface, dives into the depths of God, and brings out what God planned all along.

11 Who ever knows what you're thinking and planning except you yourself? The same with God--except that he not only knows what he's thinking,

12 but he lets us in on it. God offers a full report on the

gifts of life and salvation that he is giving us.

13 We don't have to rely on the world's guesses and opinions. We didn't learn this by reading books or going to school; we learned it from God, who taught us person-to-person through Jesus, and we're passing it on to you in the same firsthand, personal way.

14 The unspiritual self, just as it is by nature, can't receive the gifts of God's Spirit. There's no capacity for them. They seem like so much silliness. Spirit can be known only by spirit--God's Spirit and our spirits in open communion.

15 Spiritually alive, we have access to everything God's Spirit is doing, and can't be judged by unspiritual critics.

16 Isaiah's question, "Is there anyone around who knows God's Spirit, anyone who knows what he is doing?" has been answered: Christ knows, and we have Christ's Spirit.

God promises that with every trial that comes our way, God Himself will design a way for us to escape. God can never be caught unawares and God can never be put in a bind. There is always a way to escape.

1 Corinthians 10:13 KJV

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

We have established the 3 types of wisdom and we know now that what we are really looking for is godly wisdom; i.e. wisdom from above. In the next section, we will talk about the practical way godly wisdom works. Whenever you seek wisdom, what God will most likely give you is a plan of action; i.e. a way to use all the knowledge you have acquired by staying in His presence in a concerted, focused way to bring you out of a Satanic gridlock. Let us now look at how to receive and execute a God-given plan of action.





## Chapter Seven

### *The Book of Esther - A Plan of Action*

**H**ow to Receive and Execute a Plan of Action. In this particular story, God gave Esther a plan of action. The plan of action was to invite the king and Haman to a dinner and then break the news to the king with Haman right there, giving him no time to wiggle his way out. Now Esther could not have known if this would work or not but one thing is sure, she got this plan after three days of concerted fasting.

#### **Operating in the Grace of Perceptive Intuition**

An interesting thing to note in this story is that although she could have, Esther did not execute this plan immediately, once she had the King and Haman alone to herself. This leads us to another grace that is released in the place of fasting and prayer. This is the grace I have coined *the Grace of Perceptive Intuition*. Look at the operation of this grace in the fifth chapter of Esther:

Esther 5:5-8 GNB

5 The king then ordered Haman to come quickly, so that they could be Esther's guests. So the king and Haman went to Esther's banquet.

6 Over the wine the king asked her, "Tell me what you want, and you shall have it. I will grant your request, even if you ask for half my empire."

7 Esther replied,

8 "If Your Majesty is kind enough to grant my request, I would like you and Haman to be my guests tomorrow at another banquet that I will prepare for you. At that time

I will tell you what I want.”

We see in this story that Esther was operating at a high level of perception and intuition. During the course of the first dinner, Esther intuitively knew that the stage was not quite set for her to drop the bombshell of how Haman was planning to destroy her and her people. Note that she had gone into the dinner with the plan of disclosing this secret. This disclosure was central to her plan of action. However, getting there, she just knew things were not quite ready; she had to be patient and wait.

You may say, *But what has this got to do with anything?* This leads us to the very important concept of *Timing*.

### **The Crucial Issue of Timing**

The Grace of Perceptive Intuition will make sure you execute your God-given plan of action effectively. *A plan of action may be excellent, but execution is everything.* Timing is crucial. Prayer and fasting puts you in a place where your spiritual antenna is able to detect the slightest vibes in the spirit realm. As we see in a later part of this story, God wasn't quite done with Haman and Mordecai yet. God still had to humiliate Haman and promote Mordecai before the Jews final deliverance (Esther 6:1-14). Again, we must realize that although our situation seems critical, God really does have an agenda and we do fit in there somewhere and somehow. Prayer and fasting helps us to settle down, and trust God to work it all out for our good.

In Esther chapter 5, verses 6-8, we see Esther wining and dining with the two most powerful men in the kingdom. These were the only two people who had the ability to reverse the order that would set her people free. Yet she knew to wait. Fasting had made her spiritual senses keen. She seemed very simple but she was operating on another level. She just knew that this was neither the moment nor the time to follow through with her plan of action; it

had to wait one more day.

### **Intuition**

So what is Intuition? Intuition is defined as the act or faculty of knowing or sensing without the use of rational processes; it is perceptive insight. What fasting does is that it brings your spirit man to the fore and beats down your normal senses. You become more keenly aware of spiritual vibes. In this state, people just wonder how you knew not to say this or that. This is one of the ways in which God seeks to work with you in order to bring you out of satanic gridlocks.

Again, we are talking about godly wisdom - God's own way of doing things.

Suspending our human reasoning and mental prowess may be quite uncomfortable to some. Yet we must understand that God's wisdom can only lead to our glory.

1 Corinthians 2:7 GNB

7 The wisdom I proclaim is God's secret wisdom, which is hidden from human beings, but which he had already chosen for our glory even before the world was made.

What is glory? It is the Greek word *Doxa*.

*Doxa* (glory) refers to recognition and honor that is due a person. It is the opposite of shame and dishonor. Therefore godly wisdom is given to you to bring you out of any situation with your head held high. You should not come out of this gridlock embarrassed and ashamed. So as we fast and pray, we should expect the oil of God's wisdom to start dripping in our lives.

I have seen many people get into this area of fasting and praying, and come out of it with the strangest, weirdest ideas. When they follow through, it brings them dishonor and shame. I can assure you that what they acted on was not God's wisdom. Often when asked, they say, "I heard a voice telling me to do this." I do not dispute that they heard a voice; it just was not the voice of God. The bible tells us that there are many voices in this world (1

Corinthians 14:10); only one is that of the Holy Spirit. Let us now look into the area of discerning God's voice - the area of *Divine Instructions*.



## Chapter Eight

### *How to Receive Divine Instructions*

**H**aving studied the importance and process of getting wisdom through prayer and fasting to obtain your breakthroughs in life, one might ask, “What is the difference between Divine Wisdom and Divine Instructions?” To answer this question we need to revisit the definition of wisdom and take a look at the definition of instruction.

*Wisdom* is the trait of utilizing knowledge and experience with common sense and insight. *Instruction* on the other hand, is an authoritative direction to be obeyed; an order. Instructions are detailed directions on procedure.

Divine instructions are therefore detailed directions given by God to you as to how to execute the plan of action He has given you. These instructions coupled with a high level of perception can be crucial in you breaking through forces set up against you.

The book of Esther was a perfect example on how God gives you wisdom when you fast and pray. Wisdom presupposes that you are in possession of a certain amount of knowledge and experience; you just do not know how to make all these come together to get you out of your predicament. When you have knowledge and experience of the issue, you need to seek God for divine wisdom. As you seek Him, God may even reveal to you more than you knew; i.e. He may give you insight into the complexity of the dilemma and then show you the way out.

However, when you have no knowledge or experience in issues relating to the sort of dilemma facing you, what you need is *Divine Instruction*. When you are facing a monumental opposition, challenge such as you have never confronted before, you need Divine Instruction.

### **King Jehoshaphat**

To understand how this works, we will look at the story of King Jehoshaphat and the nation of Judah in 2 Chronicles 20. Let us look at a brief summary of this incident:

King Jehoshaphat was the king of the nation of Judah. He had a good heart and he served God. In the previous chapter, 2 Chronicles chapter 19, he had just instituted new practices that would ensure that his nation followed God by putting priests and Judges in place. In chapter 20, Jehoshaphat had just returned to Jerusalem (the capital city) probably expecting God to pat him on the back. Jehoshaphat probably assumed that God would ensure that he had peace on every side; after all, he had done so many great things for God's cause. However, the reverse was the case. No sooner had Jehoshaphat settled in Jerusalem, than a messenger brought him the devastating intelligence report: "A huge force is on its way from beyond the Dead Sea to fight you. There's no time to waste--they're already at Hazazon Tamar, the oasis of En Gedi." 2 Chronicles 20:2 (MSG)

Jehoshaphat was devastated. His was a small country. Remember Judah was only made up of 2 tribes of the initial 12 tribes of Israel. They were few in number, and to add salt to injury, their enemies were none other than the Moabites, the Ammonites and people from Mount Seir! "Who are these people?" you say. Well these were their cousins. The Moabites and Ammonites were descendants of Lot, Abraham's nephew. The Mount Seir guys were descendants of Esau, the twin brother of their ancestor Jacob. What was more aggravating to Jehoshaphat was that when the nation of Israel was coming out of captivity in Egypt, they could have easily taken these guys out. Israel was about 6 million

in number at that time, and they could easily have defeated Moab, Ammon and Mount Seir; but God said (Deuteronomy 2:5, 18-19), “Don’t touch them. They are your brothers. If you touch them, I will make sure you are defeated.” So, here they were years later, and these guys show up to destroy them. Jehoshaphat was totally overwhelmed.

Now this is where we need to pay particular attention to what Jehoshaphat did. He did not get his army generals out to try to devise a plan; remember they had never confronted this kind of opposition before. He recognized that it was either God came up with a strategy or they were history! So, Jehoshaphat did what each one of us should do in this kind of unprecedented attack of the Enemy: He called his whole nation together and commanded everyone to fast and pray. They all came together, fasted and Jehoshaphat started to lay out his problem before the Lord. I recommend that you spend a few minutes reading 2 Chronicles chapter 20 so you can understand the importance of prayer and fasting in times of such great dilemma.

So what did God say? God told them, “I get it and you are right, I told you not to fight your brothers and now I will take care of them myself. All I need is for you to get a front row seat and watch me clean up this mess.” Now you know I paraphrased that but that was the crux of what God said in 2 Chronicles 20: 14-17.

### **The Sweet Zone**

Firstly, I want you to note that God did not give them *wisdom* in this case; He gave them *instructions*. Secondly, note what Jehoshaphat and the children of Judah did: They bowed down and they all started to worship and praise God with a loud voice. Why? Because these instructions struck the right cord within them. They knew God had spoken and the dilemma was as good as over. Personally, when I reach this point of certainty during prayer and fasting, I say I have found my *Sweet Zone*.

So what is this Sweet Zone? The *Sweet Zone* is the point at which you experience that *velvety feeling inside* on an issue you have been

praying about. You see, up until then, there has been a lot of turmoil on the inside, a lot of uncertainty, fear and agitation. You have hit the Sweet Zone when you just want to shout or jump and scream in victory. It is the point at which you just know inside that you have the victory and you have your breakthrough. Jehoshaphat got so excited, he sent out a whole choir to go before his soldiers into a war zone. Jehoshaphat was so sure that they were not going to have to fight, that he threw a victory party before they even got to the battlefield! That is what I call arriving at the *Sweet Zone*!

Usually, you do not arrive at the Sweet Zone based on anything you see in the physical; it is usually based on a directive or a revelation that God gave you *specific* to your situation. You may reach your *Sweet Zone* several times in the course of breaking free from a satanic gridlock, because often times, revelation from the Holy Spirit is in stages; *revelation is progressive*. This is why one period of fasting and prayer may not be sufficient to completely break you free from a satanic gridlock. Personally, I do not stop praying and fasting on any issue until I reach the *Sweet Zone*.

As exciting as this may sound, finding or reaching the Sweet Zone often eludes many Christians. This is usually due to 2 main reasons: (1) improperly executed fasts or (2) spiritual immaturity.

One of the most frequent errors I have found with Christians who fast is the emphasis that they place on abstinence from food; they place very little emphasis on time spent in prayer, meditation of the word and just plain silence; i.e. keeping quiet long enough to let God get a word in edgewise! The other problem is one of *spiritual immaturity*; i.e. you are too young or underdeveloped spiritually to be able to determine if what you claim to be hearing is really from God. Like previously mentioned, many a Christian, has come from the place of prayer and fasting with the weirdest set of instructions anyone has ever heard. When I say weird, I mean weird in the sense of not making sense from a scriptural viewpoint. Often times, instructions God will give us will make no sense humanly speaking, and would very often appear illogical; *but they will always make spiritual sense*. To determine if what you are hearing makes spiritual sense requires a measure of spiritual



maturity which when you are starting out on a path of prayer and fasting, you may not possess. Yet, there is no substitute for learning to hear and decipher the voice of your heavenly Father by actually getting into His presence and listening to Him. Prayer and fasting is an excellent way to developing the ability to know God's voice.

So you may ask, "How do I not get into trouble; what if I come out with what I think is from God and it actually is from my mind or even the Devil?" Well, there are safeguards to this and we will look at these briefly in the next chapter.